

John Wright Stanley House  
New Bern, Craven County  
North Carolina

HABS No. NC-67

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of North Carolina

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Prepared at Headquarters Office for  
M. R. Marsh, District Officer  
509 Builders Building, Charlotte, N.C.

STANLY HOUSE  
New Bern, Craven County, North Carolina

Owner: New Bern Public Library

Date of erection: c. 1779

Present condition: Good

Architect: Perhaps John Hawks

Description:

Frame; two stories; deck-on-hip roof; two center chimneys. Facade five bays, center door; all windows 6/6 lights. Lower windows have paneled shutters, fully moulded architrave trim supporting pulvinated friezes and pediments. The cornice of the latter is enriched with Wall of Troy dentils. The doorway has engaged Doric columns supporting an open pediment through which is pierced an arched transom. The fact that this is four lights wide makes it seem probable that the window sash were originally 12/12's, which would much improve the scale of the building. On the roof are a series of modern dormers.

In plan the house has a wide center hall which broadens toward the back to contain a fine three-flight staircase. This has turned balusters, moulded and ramped rail, and carved brackets of mahogany or walnut. The baroque Chippendale of the ~~black~~ brackets is unusual. At the left is a fine paneled room with tall panels above a cornice-type chair rail. The panels themselves are sunk, the styles and rails being ogee-moulded. The mantel in this room is a modern early nineteenth-century type. The overmantel, however, is original and is framed by a dog-eared architrave supporting a frieze and broken pediment. There is a dentiled course in the cornice. The right-hand room is rather similar but lacks paneling above the chair rail. The original mantel is intact, with dog-eared surround and brackets supporting a cornice-type shelf.

Additional data:

This house was built by John Wright Stanley, or may have been bought by him incomplete and finished. In 1935 it was moved from its original site, where the Federal Building now stands. In the early days it was a scene of lavish entertaining, guests having included Washington and Lafayette.

References: N. C. Guide, p. 229; Old Homes and Gardens of N. C., pl. 8

Author: MLW

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